

Proposal for Park Board to Consider Bike Path on 93

Bike path—3 meters wide is 29+ miles from the county line to Hamilton City limits. This includes all bike paths over, under, and around or across the Memorial Bridge. This has extended by up to 1 ½ miles of path not considered before now. This was or is to be plowed within 72 hours of any major snowfall. We have proposed and enacted a program with \$28,000 as available funding to provide \$1000/mile for snow removal and equipment to work with. Presently Florence Park District has 6 miles of bike path and was given \$6000 to gear up and plow this area. The Florence Civic Club was the original entity who was to do this main bike path plowing. They have since stepped aside and gave the Florence Park District responsibility for the 93 bike path from Highway 93 to the Bitterroot River, which was funded partly with CTEP funds. This has provided 2-3 years of experience and opportunities to learn what may be required.

We are now seeing the completion of Hamilton to north of Woodside and Stevi Wye N and S as well as Stevi North. Presently \$23,000 plus or minus is retained in a park account for bike path snow plowing. Approximately \$9000 is earmarked for the Victor Park District payable upon completion of the bike path through the Victor Park District. This will reduce funds to \$14,000 for gearing up and plowing the recently completed bike path in the Stevensville and Hamilton-Woodside areas.

Currently clarification of contract language and boundaries has extended the bike path/sidewalk areas by another 5 to 7 miles. If sidewalks become the obligation of the Park Board funds, we become very strapped by different needs because the sidewalks are 5 feet wide and concrete. The bike paths are 3 meters wide and nearly all constructed of asphalt.

Victor is yet to come on board but are trying to prepare with a projected cost of \$75/mile for plowing costs.

We recommend a uniform budget from North to South of \$65-\$90/mile for snow plowing. This is to be paid based on miles plowed and dispersed to park districts as well as areas not in a park district. We feel funding for equipment, personnel and safety measures be provided if the Park Commission is to be responsible. If this were to be contracted out, a minimum of a 3-year contract is recommended and an adjustment for fuel costs be made for each \$.25 increment of price raise beyond \$2.50/gallon.

We are recommending a 25 to 40 H.P. tractor equipped with a blade, cab, and safety lighting. This could be used to plow both the bike path and sidewalk areas.

When a major storm hits and all the bike paths are completed, this would require an expenditure of \$2625 per plowing based on 35 miles @ \$75 per mile. Without equipment costs, this would deplete the current bike path fund in only 10 to 12 times of plowing. Florence plowed snow four times during the 2007-2008 winter season.